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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/528,128

03/01/2005

David Silva

23092

8949

535

7590

03/23/2006

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EXAMINER

ESTRADA, ANGEL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,128

Applicant(s)

SILVA, DAVID

Examiner

Angel R. Estrada

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/1/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed March 1, 2005 has been considered by the Examiner.

### ***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 1-8 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claims 1-8, delete all the reference numerals.

In claim 1 line 8, before "an elastically yieldable" add a semicolon.

In claim 1 line 9, before "a snap part" add ---; and-- .

In claim 1 line 10, change "the snap part" to --the elastically yieldable snap part--.

In claim 2 line 2, change "the snap part" to --the elastically yieldable snap part--.

In claim 2 line 2, change "housing part" to --second housing part--.

In claim 2 line 4, change "housing part" to --first housing part--.

In claim 5 line 1, the claim has no dependency. Examiner assumes that the claim depends from claim 2.

In claim 8 line 2, after "claim 1" delete "one of the preceding claims"

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Specification***

4. The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

5. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### ***Arrangement of the Specification***

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or  
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suppelsa et al (US 5,536,917; hereinafter Suppelsa).

Regarding claim 1, Suppelsa discloses a housing (5), especially a housing for an electronic device for use in automotive technology, which has at least two housing parts (10,12) of plastic whereby the two housing parts can be locked together with at least one snap connection (see figure 1), characterized in that at least one snap connection is so formed that after the housing parts (10,12) have been locked together they remain

under a prestress for which purpose on one housing part (see figure 1); an elastically yieldable snap parts (14) arranged and on the at least one other housing part; and a snap part (16) is arranged which operatively engages with the elastically yieldable snap part (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 2, Suppelsa discloses the housing (see figure 1) characterized in that the elastically yieldable snap part (14) on the second housing part (12) is a lug with a recess or cutout (see figure 1) and the snap part (16) on the first housing part (10), which is operatively engageable therewith, is a detent hook (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, Suppelsa discloses the housing (see figure 1) characterized in that the lug (14) is connected only at an end region with the housing part (12) and is otherwise separated from the housing part by slits (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 4, Suppelsa discloses the housing (see figure 1) characterized in that the lug (14) has an outwardly directed projection (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Suppelsa discloses the housing (see figure 1) characterized in that the detent hook (16) is located in a region set back with respect to the surface of the housing part (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 8, Suppelsa discloses the housing (see figure 1) characterized in that the at least two housing parts (10) are made of plastic (see abstract).

7. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vicenza et al (US 6,848,946; hereinafter Vicenza).

Regarding claim 1, Vicenza discloses a housing (100), especially a housing for an electronic device for use in automotive technology, which has at least two housing parts (5,7) of plastic whereby the two housing parts can be locked together with at least one snap connection (see figure 1), characterized in that at least one snap connection is so formed that after the housing parts (5,7) have been locked together they remain under a prestress for which purpose on one housing part (see figure 1); an elastically yieldable snap parts (34) arranged and on the at least one other housing part; and a snap part (32) is arranged which operatively engages with the elastically yieldable snap part (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 6, Vicenza discloses the housing (100) characterized in that the at least two housing parts (5,7) are separate from one another or are connected with one another by connecting means (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 7, Vicenza discloses the housing (100) characterized in that the connecting means (see figure 1) is at least one film hinge (37).

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Depp et al (US 6,570,088), Saka et al (US 5,718,598), Gregory et al (US 6,126,458), Matsuoka (US 6,121,548), Brauer (US 5,373,104), and Bloodworth et al (US 6,815,612) disclose a housing having snap parts.

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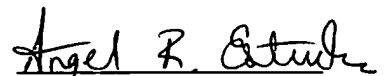
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 16, 2006



Angel R. Estrada  
Primary Examiner  
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